

Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs

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Janet Napolitano
Governor

Jack C. Jackson, Jr.
Executive Director

RESOLUTION OF THE ARIZONA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS Resolution Number FY2006-01

Regarding Alternative 2 Allowing Snowmaking on the San Francisco Peaks

WHEREAS, the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs (ACIA) is the state agency charged with enhancing communications and intergovernmental relations with Arizona's 22 Indian Nations and Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the ACIA works towards a greater understanding and improved relationships between Indians and non-Indians in the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the ACIA promotes increased participation by Native Americans in state and local affairs; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2005, the Coconino National Forest approved Alternative 2 of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that provides for the artificial snow making using reclaimed wastewater for the Arizona Snowbowl facilities located on the San Francisco Peaks; and

WHEREAS, as per A.R.S. § 41-542 (3), the ACIA has been empowered by the Legislature to "confer and coordinate with officials and agencies of other governmental units and legislative committees regarding Indian needs and goals;" and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Peaks, called "Nuvatukyaovi" by the Hopi people, and "Doko'oosliid" by the Navajo people, since time immemorial, is a central and essential element of the culture, religion and life of people of the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Zuni Pueblo, Yavapai Apache Nation, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, Tonto Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, and Acoma Pueblo; and

WHEREAS, the people of these Nations and Tribes have expressed profound disappointment and opposition to the selection of Alternative 2 as further desecration of their sacred mountain; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned tribes contend that Alternative 2 would further degrade the spiritual home of religious deities and shrines, impair the natural conditions of medicinal herbs and plants and disturb the worship of the tribal people collectively; and

WHEREAS, this decision has further adversely affected the sacredness of the San Francisco Peaks as a sacred site, its pristine ecology, the spiritual meaning to the Nations and Tribes, and will result in a greater and permanent scarring of the San Francisco Peaks, and

WHEREAS, this decision fundamentally violates the First Amendment rights by placing a substantial burden on the tribes' rights to practice their religion, and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Hopi Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Havasupai Tribe, and several Non-Governmental Organizations including the Sierra Club have filed lawsuits in Federal District Court to challenge the Alternative 2 decision of the Coconino National Forest.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs supports the efforts of the Nations and Tribes at saving the San Francisco Peaks from over development and urges that the Coconino National Forest withhold approval and implementation of the Alternative 2 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

CERTIFICATION:

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called meeting at San Carlos, Arizona at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent, and 0 abstained on the 14th day of July, 2005.



Paul Nosie, Jr., Board Chairman
Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs